

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JOHN PAUL II

Krakow – Czestochowa – Warsaw – Kaunas – Vilnius
9 Days / 8 Nights

Day 1: KRAKOW

Arrival in Krakow. Transfer to the hotel and check-in. **Krakow** (also written Cracow) is the former capital of Poland and still one of the country's most important cities. It is also considered one of the most beautiful cities in Europe thanks to the excellent preservation of its buildings and its rich artistic cultural heritage. Krakow's Old Town, listed as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, is packed with exquisite Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance-style edifices. From the Main Market Square you can follow Grodzka Street to world-known Wawel Hill with Wawel Castle.

Day 2: KRAKOW – LAGIEWNIKI – WIELICZKA SALT MINE – KRAKOW

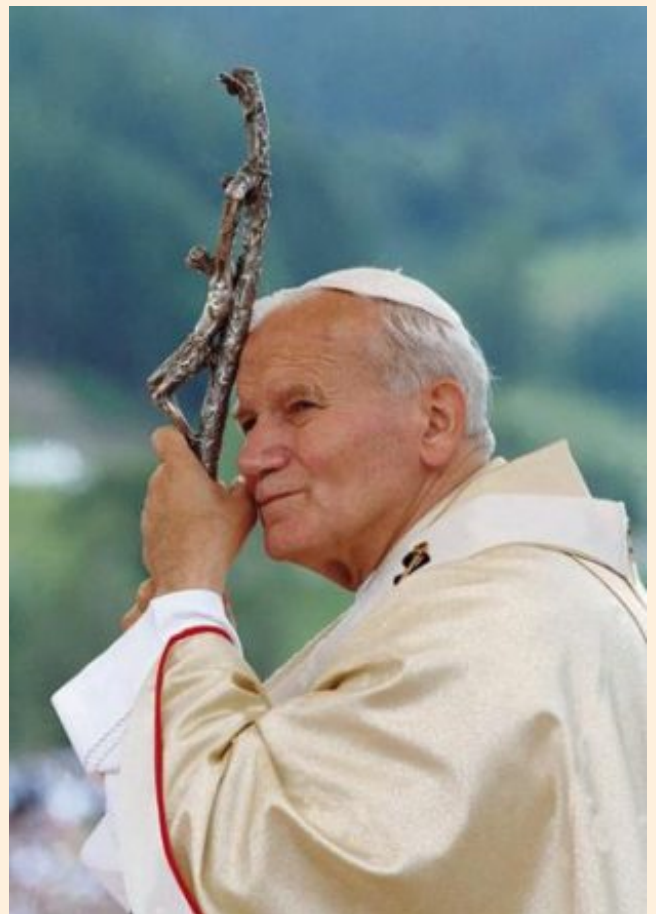
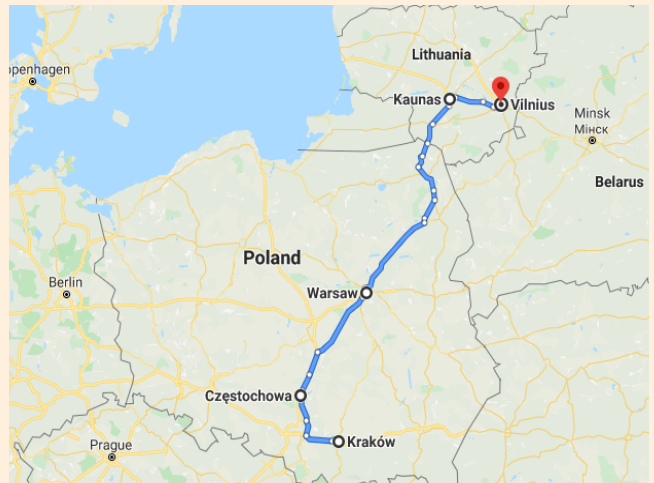
In Kraków, the **Sanctuary of Divine Mercy** includes a new basilica, and the 19th-century convent of nun and mystic Faustyna Kowalska, who saw a vision of Christ with red and white shafts of light emanating from his heart. The image - known as the "Divine Mercy" - is purported to have miraculous healing properties, leading to Faustyna's eventual canonisation by Pope John Paul II in 2000. A big proponent of the cult of Faustyna, during WWII the future pope prayed at this site every day.

Wieliczka Salt Mine – one of the largest underground mining museums in the world, where white gold, called salt, was extracted from the ground. It's a subterranean labyrinth of tunnels and chambers – about 300km distributed over nine levels, the deepest being 327m underground. It is also a world class monument, featuring on the UNESCO's World Cultural and Natural Heritage List.

Day 3: KRAKOW – KALWARIA ZEBRZYDOWSKA – WADOWICE - CZESTOCHOWA

Just 35 km from Kraków, in the town of **Kalwaria Zebrzydowska**, surrounded by hills and green valleys, stands the Bernardine Monastery. This monastery is one of the most important pilgrimage centers in Poland. Still a little boy, Karol Józef Wojtyła came here with her father. The Sanctuary of Calvary was the place of prayer of the future John Paul II.

After visiting of Bernardines sanctuary in Kalwaria, further drive to the hometown of John Paul II – Wadowice. Visit John Paul II Family Home Museum and Minor Basilica of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary where John Paul II was baptized.



Day 4: CZESTOCHOWA – NIEPOKALANOW - WARSAW

Visit the Sanctuary of Black Madonna Shrine in Jasna Gora Monastery. The Pauline monastery at Jasna Góra in Częstochowa is the foremost centre of religious life in Poland, and one of the best known Marian sanctuaries in Europe and the world.

Drive to **Niepokalanow** to visit the Sanctuary of Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Franciscan monastery founded by St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Niepokalanów is the name of the Franciscan monastery located in the village of Paprotnia. The monastery was founded in 1927 by Father Maksymilian Kolbe, who came here with a group of 20 brothers from Grodno. In 1954, the Basilica was consecrated, whose construction was begun by Father Maksymilian before the war. In 1983, Holy Father John Paul II came to Niepokalanów with a pilgrimage.

Day 5: WARSAW

Warsaw is a must visit due to the fact that it's Old Town entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List. As well as the Royal Route is very famous for foreign visitors. During your tour you will visit Old and „New“ town. During city tour you will see St. John Cathedral, Pilsudski Square, Tomb of Unknown Soldier, and etc.

Day 6: WARSAW – AUGUSTOW – WIGRY – KAUNAS

On the way to Vilnius stop in Augustow for lunch. Further drive to Kaunas with visit to Post-Camaldolian Monastery in Wigry.

The **Post-Camaldolian Monastery in Wigry** has been one of the most important cultural heritage sites in Poland and Europe since the 17th century. It is included in the register of monuments, which has a unique historical, artistic, religious and scientific value. 1667 January 6 King Jan Kazimierz established the Wigry Camaldolese Foundation.

Day 7: KAUNAS – SYLUVA – TYTUVENAI – HILL OF CROSSES - VILNIUS

Silva is one of the first sites in Europe where a Marian apparition was seen. It is a place where visitors find inner spiritual peace, where you can experience a centuries old pilgrimage tradition and immerse yourself in impressive sacred architecture.

In the early 17th century, Andrejus Valavičius, the standard-bearer of the Lithuanian Grand Duchy, began construction of the **Tytuvėnai Monastery** complex. It was built initially in the Gothic spirit, and then intertwined with Renaissance-style details. However, the largest proportion of the monastery is dedicated to Baroque architecture. Today, this Franciscan monastery is in excellent condition, and is a unique architectural monument located deep in the heart of rural Lithuania.

Church of Our Lady of the Angels and Bernardine monastery complex in Tytuvėnai are among Lithuania's largest and most significant specimens of 17th and 18th century sacred architecture, reflecting as they do a multi-layered harmony of the gothic, mannerist and baroque styles. The ensemble consists of a church, a courtyard with the Holy Steps Chapel, and the stone wall of a two-story monastery.

Lithuania's legendary **Hill of Crosses** is a symbol of defiance and part of a pilgrimage site. More than 200,000 crosses have been planted on this low hill. The tradition began during the 1831 Uprising and reached its height in the 1960s, in defiance of anti-religious Soviet rule. This place was granted a visit of John Paul II in 1993.



Day 8: VILNIUS – TRAKAI - VILNIUS

During city tour in **Vilnius** you will see Cathedral of St. Stanislav and St. Vladislav, St. Peter and Paul Church, Gate of Dawn Chapel and St. Teresa's church, Town Hall, Pilies street, Vilnius University and etc. You will also have opportunity to visit House of St. Faustina. She lived in Vilnius from 1933 to 1936 and during that time, she experienced several mystical visions of Jesus. The prayers comprising the Chaplet of Divine Mercy were spoken by Jesus to Sister Faustina in her visions in Vilnius as well. This happened on 13-14 September 1935 in the wooden house of the convent of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. In the afternoon trip to **Trakai**. Visit Trakai Island castle. Trakai castle is the only Gothic water castle in Europe that survived from the 14th century.

Day 9: VILNIUS

Transfer to the airport. Departure.

ASK PRICE IN 3*, 4* AND 5* HOTELS

INCLUDED:

- 2 x overnight stay / BR 3* Ibis Krakow Stare Miasto / 4* Galaxy, Krakow
- 1 x overnight stays / BR 3* Mercure Czestochowa Centrum / 4* Arche, Czestochowa
- 2 x overnight stays / BR 3* Campanile Varsovie/ 4* Radisson Blu Sobieski, Warsaw
- 1 x overnight stays / BR 3* Magnus/ 4* Park Inn by Radisson, Kaunas
- 2 x overnight stay / BR 3* Green Hotel / 4* Holiday Inn, Vilnius
- 8 x BB
- Leading English speaking guide as per program.
- Entrances: : Wieliczka Salt Mine, John Paul II home museum, Sanctuary of Black Madonna Shrine, Trakai castle.
- Comfort bus according to the itinerary
- All taxes

NOT INCLUDED:

- Porterage
- Water
- Tips for driver and guides (recommended 2 EUR pp for each)